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UF Appoints John Cisar To Coordinate Turf Program

The University of Florida, IFAS, announced the appointment of Dr. John L. Cisar as the new coordinator of the turfgrass program.

The official announcement was made by Dr. David Buchanan, director of UF's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center on March 12 at the South Florida Turfgrass Exposition at the FLREC.

The duties of the coordinator are to lead the university's research and extension program in turf and act as a university liaison to the turfgrass industry. The position has been vacant since the retirement of Dr. Ed Freeman in 1996.

Dr. Cisar has spent his entire professional career at the University of Florida, and is currently an associate professor of turfgrass management and water at the University's FLREC.

Dr. Cisar received his B.A. from Rutgers University in his home state, New Jersey. He received his M. S. from Cornell University and Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island.

Since his appointment to the University of Florida in December 1986, Dr. Cisar has conducted research and extension education programs which emphasize the development of turfgrass management systems that conserve Florida's water and natural resources and that protect Florida's water quality.

Dr. Cisar's current and recent cooperative projects include studies on the fate of agri-chemicals applied to turf including dislodgeable residues, the influence of Florida lawns on nutrient mobility, the effect of effluent irrigation on nutrient leaching to groundwater, compost utilization in turf, irrigation efficiency, turf nutrition, soil-water repellency, diseases of warm- and cool-season turf, soil amendments, and evaluation of new turf varieties



Dr. John L. Cisar, associate professor of turf management and water at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center at Fort Lauderdale, has been named to coordinate the university's growing turf program.

including the new National Turfgrass Evaluation Program bermudagrass putting green variety trial to be conducted at the Jupiter Island Club.

His work is being funded by national and statewide organizations including the United States Golf Association, FTGA, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program. He is the author or co-author of over 150 scientific and popular manuscripts.

Dr. Cisar is a director of the International Turfgrass Society, the editor of the *International Turfgrass Society Newsletter*, technical editor of the *Florida Turf Digest*, contributing editor of *Turf News* (magazine of the Turfgrass Producers International), and an advisory member of the FTGA.

Dr. Cisar and his wife, Terry — a pharmacy manager for Walgreen's — reside in Plantation in Broward County with their 15-month-old son Joey. Plantation is central to the large and varied turfgrass industry of subtropical south Florida.

Architect, Superintendent To Lead Florida Golf Alliance

With an architect as president and a superintendent as vice president, the Florida Golf Alliance is a reality.

Proceeding thoughtfully to avoid the pitfalls and failures of past attempts at unifying all the golf interests and associations in the state, the FGA is building a team based on the strength of unity.

The Alliance's stated mission is to promote and protect the industry as a major contributor to the state's economy, environment and quality of life.

Seven major associations have taken the lead so far in helping to organize the alliance: PGA Tour, LPGA Tour, Tommy Armour Golf Tour, Mercury Titleholders Championship, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, Florida Turfgrass Association and the Florida Chapter of the Club Managers Association.

The FGA Board is actively seeking participation and membership by all organized groups and associations that have a stake in the future of the game



Florida Golf Alliance President Ron Garl and Vice President Roy Bates are working to unite all Florida golf interests under one banner to address issues that may affect the game or the industry. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and the business of golf and that have the desire to work together for the common good.

One of the first goals of the Alliance will be to document the total economic impact of golf on the state of Florida.

Building on the Turf Economic Survey done by the FTGA, the FGA will expand the findings to include all phases of the golf industry to include golf operations, maintenance, retail sales, tourism, real estate development, recreation, jobs and food beverage to name a few areas.

Current board members include President Ron Garl, golf course architect; Vice President Roy Bates, CGCS, Imperial Lakes CC and FTGA; Secretary Ann Palmer, Mercury Titleholders Championship; Treasurer Jack Brennan, Paladin Golf Marketing.

Directors are Richard Bowers, PGA Tour; Terry McCracken, LPGA Tour; Terry Fine, Tommy Armour Golf Tour; Joe Ondo, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and Mike Fiddelke, Club Managers Association.

Joel Jackson, Director of Communications for the FGCSA has also been attending the meetings since his appointment in January.

New Product Display, Casino Nite Planned for 1998 FTGA Show

The 1998 Conference & Show plans are off to a great start. There is going to be so much fun and excitement you won't want to miss a thing. Some of the new events for this year:

- Casino Night w/ Entertainment
- New Product Showcase
- Key Note Speaker
- And much more!

This year there will be special events for members only. If you are not already a member now is the time to sign up with the Florida TurfGrass Association and become part of the action, not only at Conference and Show but all year long.

Your membership entitles you to a

wide variety of helpful material to assist you in you work place, and the bimonthly *Turf Digest* to keep you up to date on turf industry-related research, seminars, and upcoming events.

Your membership dollars also help the turf industry by keeping a full-time lobbyist interacting with governmental agencies and representing the our

interest in the turf industry, and all of the FTGA's research dollars stay in Florida to solve Florida's problems.

For more information about the FTGA Conference & Show, membership, or turf conferences call the FTGA staff at 800/882-6721, e-mail FTGA@aol.com or visit our web site at <http://www.ftga.org>.

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FNGA's Florida Plants of the Year (Part 2)

Editor's Note: In the last issue we told you about the program started by the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association that will identify superior plant material that performs well but is often underutilized. If you are looking for proven plant material to provide color and diversity on your course, you may want to give these 1998 Florida Plants of the Year a closer look.

The program's selection committee includes horticulturists, nurserymen, educators, architects and other professional members of the horticulture industry from central, north and south Florida. Here are the rest of the selections for 1998.

Trees

ACOMA CRAPE MYRTLE

Lagerstroemia indica (crape myrtle) is commonly referred to as the "Lilac of the South." Over 75 cultivars are currently being evaluated in north



Florida. Of these, the *Florida Plants of the Year* selection committee has chosen three. One of the winners selected was 'Acoma.' This plant will reach a mature size of about 12' x 12'.

An outstanding characteristic of the white flowering 'Acoma' is its very distinctive horizontal habit of growth. The tree usually begins blooming around late June and continues for about three months.

The bark color is in attractive shades of cream and beige. As fall approaches, look for striking foliage color that gives way to fine branching structure. This interesting structure lends itself to a nice display with night lighting in the winter. Acoma is a National Arboretum hybrid and has excellent powdery mildew resistance.

Crape myrtles are adaptable to climatic conditions throughout Florida. Planting

in full sun will result in the best flower production. They are tolerant of a wide range of soil types, but grow poorly in wet soils.

Common Name: Acoma crape myrtle

Horticultural Name: *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Acoma'

Hardiness: Zone 7

Mature Height x Spread: 12' x 12'

Classification: Small tree

Landscape Use: Patio tree, focal point

Characteristics: Distinctive horizontal growth habit with white pendulous flowers

TONTO CRAPE MYRTLE

Lagerstroemia indica (crape myrtle) was introduced to the southern United States over 150 years ago from Asia. Since that time, many new hybrids have been developed. Among these introductions



was an *indica* x *fauriei* named 'Tonto.'

'Tonto' is an upright, rounded plant reaching about 15' in height. It produces the best red flowers of any of the disease-resistant

hybrids. The red panicle may be up to eight inches in diameter. Bloom usually begins in July and extends through September. Its bright maroon colored fall leaves drop in winter, revealing a living sculpture. This USDA release exhibits good powdery mildew resistance.

With very few pest problems and low fertility requirements, crape myrtles make an excellent choice for the landscape. They also require very little pruning. Prune to develop shape or remove suckers, but avoid hard pruning on an annual or regular basis. Tip pruning to remove old flowers will promote repeat blooming.

Crape myrtles tolerate a wide range of soil types, but perform poorly in wet soils. Best flowering and disease resistance is achieved by planting them in full sun.

Common Name: Tonto crape myrtle

Horticultural Name: *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Tonto'

Hardiness: Zone 7

Mature Height x Spread: 15' x 15'

Characteristics: Upright, rounded plant reaching 15' in height

SIoux CRAPE MYRTLE

Crape myrtle derives its common name from its crepe-like crinkled petals and the resemblance of its leaves to the true myrtle, *Myrtus communis*.



Among over 75 cultivars being tested in Florida, the National Arboretum hybrid 'Sioux' was selected because of several outstanding characteristics.

This tight, vase-shaped cultivar reaches about 20' in height and develops blooms that are a beautiful shade of medium pink. The bloom usually lasts from July through September. Because of its almost columnar habit, the Sioux is an excellent choice for narrow spaces. A 9 year-old Sioux crape myrtle at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center in Monticello is 20' tall and only 11' wide. Fall foliage color is an intense red. The plant shows an excellent resistance to powdery mildew.

Crape myrtles are seen throughout Florida today and offer a tremendous display in the summer. When looking for that medium-size tree to highlight the landscape, consider 'Sioux.'

Crape myrtles are very tolerant of drought and a wide range of soil types. They perform poorly in wet soil conditions.

Common Name: Sioux crape myrtle

Horticultural Name: *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Sioux'

Hardiness: Zone 7

Mature Height: 20'

Landscape use: Narrow spaces, landscape highlight

Characteristics: Tight, vase-shaped cultivar that reaches 20' in height and develops medium pink blooms

Plant descriptions and photos provided by the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association, 1533 Park center Dr., Orlando, FL 32835, 407-295-7994, Fax 407-295-1619, e-mail: fnga@aol.com

Bureaucrats On The Loose Again.

Pesticide Uses May be Lost Under FQPA

The 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FIFRA Amendments) substantially changes the way pesticides are evaluated for safety.

To assess the risk of pesticides, EPA must now address the *total* exposures from residues in food as well as drinking water and residential sources. In addition, the accumulated exposure from chemicals with similar toxicity mechanisms will be evaluated.

Using the new assessment criteria, EPA has begun to decide which pesticides and pesticide uses will remain available and which registrations will be canceled.

What is going wrong?

Pesticide manufacturers say the requirements of the law are strict but achievable, provided EPA:

- allows development of the best scientific methodology to meet the new safety standards and revised objectives for protecting human health and the environment.
- bases decisions on actual updated scientific data and pesticide use; and
- establishes and communicates open, uniform and scientifically practical policies to guide consistent implementation of the new law.

FQPA allows EPA to use a process called "data-call-in" to obtain the scientific data necessary to conduct these new risk assessment evaluations.

However, early indications are that EPA is not planning to use the "data-call-in" provisions of the law, and is instead using a method called "default assumptions." These "default assumptions" about exposure and usage are in many cases overly conservative, inaccurate and unreliable.

Using "default assumptions" will likely result in the unnecessary loss of pest control products, especially in non-food markets such as turfgrass.

How will golf course superintendents be affected?

As a result of EPA's implementation of FQPA, golf course superintendents may lose access to valuable pesticides, thereby reducing maintenance

options. The practice of Integrated Pest Management will be compromised and maintenance costs inevitably will increase.



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Your Action Needed!

What can golf course superintendents do to help?

To maintain access to needed pesticides, user groups are working with industry to ensure that EPA implements the new law fairly and objectively by using the best scientific methodology and data, and the most accurate information about pesticide use. EPA officials have not been responsive to pleas from industry, but they will listen to Congress.

Call or write your member of Congress. Ask them to urge EPA to:

- **preserve** as many valuable pest management protection tools as possible;
- **use "data-call-ins"** to obtain the information necessary to accurately evaluate the safety of pesticide products;
- base decisions on **actual pesticide use**; and
- establish and communicate **uniform policies** for consistent FQPA implementation.

Editor's Note: To meet their agenda, latest reports have EPA canceling all tolerances for organophosphates! Your local chapter external vice president has been given a Congressional Contact Kit to help you join in the grassroots campaign. Dow AgroSciences reps are also assisting chapters with the letter-writing campaign. The GCSAA and a Florida coalition of pesticide user groups are working with a national coalition of manufacturers and other users to alert Congress to the impracticalities of EPA's approach. Get involved!

Turf Talk

What Do Golfers Really Want?

BY KEVIN DOWNING, CGCS

*Willoughby Golf Club and
FSGA Board Member*

What do golfers really want when they play? Birdies, pars, a quality tee shot, a trouble shot that skips nicely up the approach onto the green?

What about a good, consistent putting surface? Whether you are a middle handicapper or a scratch player, golfers are affected by the condition of the playing surface more than any other sport.

The individuals responsible for conditioning the turf at the golf courses throughout our state are commonly called golf course superintendents or course managers. The decisions these turf managers make on a daily basis can have a tremendous impact on your enjoyment of golf.

As a matter of fact, the selections of turfgrass varieties for overseeding or bermuda foundation planting stock vary so much that these varieties could affect green speed in excess of two feet. With this type of diversity, it becomes apparent that golf course superintendents need to be aware of golfers' needs and golfers need to realize that grass solutions on golf courses are not always simple decisions.

In the early 1950s, bermudagrass putting surfaces were very coarse and probably not much better than a good tee of the 1990s. Varieties came along in 1956

that improved the putting quality quite a bit and then great strides were made in 1965 with the introduction of a variety called Tifdwarf.

Golfers who have played in Florida for any length of time are probably familiar with Tifdwarf, but most of them are probably unaware of its origin. No, it did not come from the shelves of Home Depot, and it is not available in a burlap bag at your local feed store.

Actually, Tifdwarf is a "mutated clone" that came from a Tifgreen putting surface at the Florence Country Club in South Carolina.

The original Tifgreens were developed by an artificial crossbreeding of two types of bermudagrass, creating a sterile triploid hybrid. That's enough botany for now, but the key item to remember is that the grasses for Florida golf courses come from vegetative parts rather than seed. The pure act of growing and planting vegetative grasses can cause a multitude of problems for putting surface consistency.

A number of years ago, you either chose Tifdwarf or Tifgreen and went from there, but now there are more flavors in the candy store and we surely hope they all taste good.

A little-known fact is that of the six or seven vendors who sold Tifdwarf throughout Florida in the last 25 years, each strain was slightly different and they adapted to site situations with unique



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characteristics. Some of these dwarfs would be more acceptable to overseeding while others might denser and less susceptible to algae formation during inclement weather patterns.

Obviously, all dwarfs were not created equal and the problem was intensified when the state of Florida dropped the Turfgrass Certification Program in 1985 in the wake of a cost cutting campaign.

As players, we all want surfaces that look like a pool table with no blotches or imperfections. Unfortunately, sometimes bermuda greens can look like a bad hair day for Dennis Rodman of the Chicago Bulls. The imperfections of older Tifdwarf greens might not putt poorly, but boy they look ugly! No offense, Dennis.

The search for a better grass for southern greens has been brewing for some time, but only in the last few years have we begun to make some headway. Four new selections have been released recently which include Floradwarf, Champion, M.S. Supreme and, most recently, TifEagle.

Some of these grasses have come from

*Unfortunately,
sometimes bermuda
greens can look like a
bad hair day for
Dennis Rodman...*

the private sector while a few have come through the more traditional channels of university releases.

Some of the concerns about the new "ultra-fine" bermudagrasses will be worked out when superintendents and researchers become more familiar with the growth habits of these new varieties.

Since the new bermudagrasses have not been thoroughly evaluated in replicated green trials, a number of questions still need to be answered regarding stress and pest tolerances over a wide range of locations.

The United States Golf Association, in cooperation with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, is sponsoring on-

site testing at a variety of locations throughout the Southeast. These tests will be beneficial for accurately evaluating putting green grasses under a wide range of environmental conditions.

In cooperation with the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Florida State Golf Association will continue to monitor developments in this area and will be supportive through the Cal Korf Turfgrass Fund. Hopefully, as time progresses, golf turf in Florida will continue to get better which might make the game more enjoyable for all of us.

Reference: Foy, John. "The Hybrid Bermudagrass Scene," *USGA. Green Section Record*, Nov/Dec 1997.

Editor's Note: Kevin submitted this article for publication in the Florida State Golf Association newsletter. We thought we might print it here to let you know that we are trying to bridge that gap between superintendents and the golfing public. That is one of the goals that came out of the FGCSA Strategic Planning Session last November.

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Field Day attendees listen to Dr. J. Bryan Unruh speak about the newly sprigged USGA specification putting green.

Just Where IS Milton, Anyway?

The Not-So-New Guy's Perspective on Building a Great Turf Program

BY J. BRYAN UNRUH, PH.D.
University of Florida

By now, the news of the expansion of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences turfgrass program in Milton is old. However, I frequently come across people who are not fully aware of what is going on in that "other" part of Florida.

The turfgrass program is part of a new off-campus teaching program located in Milton, a small suburb east of Pensacola. This program is the result of an idea that surfaced back in 1985 with Pensacola Junior College's Milton Campus Provost, Doug Worley, former state House of Representatives Speaker Bo Johnson, and PJC's natural resource department head, Logan Fink.

The idea involved bringing courses available only at UF to the Panhandle so that students could pursue a bachelor's degree without having to go to Gainesville. Students would obtain prerequisite courses at PJC and the University of West Florida in Pensacola would provide several elective courses.

The Legislature first considered the issue in 1988, approved funding in 1990, and the first classes were taught in 1992.

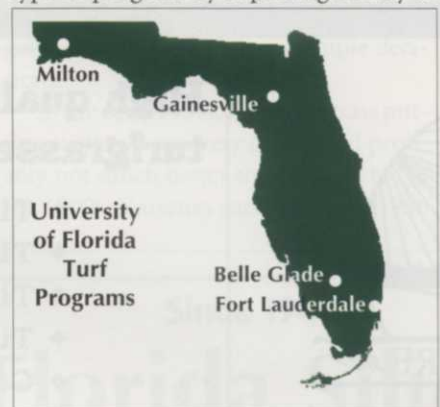
Today, five additions complement fac-

ulty already at UF's West Florida Research and Education Center north of Pensacola to offer degrees in turfgrass science, environmental horticulture, and natural resource conservation.

Besides the on-campus faculty, distance learning systems such as live satellite television, two-way interactive compressed video, and Internet-based correspondence courses are used to link students to faculty.

Expanding the Mission

In an era of tighter budgets and shrinking financial resources, UF justifies this type of program by expecting faculty to



develop research and/or extension programs in the Florida panhandle that will further the University's and IFAS' missions to "develop knowledge in agricultural, human, and natural resources and to make that knowledge accessible to sustain and enhance the quality of human life."

It is because of this expectation that the UF Turfgrass Field Laboratory at the WFREC was constructed. Located about 30 miles northeast of Pensacola, the Turfgrass Field Laboratory now has nine acres of turfgrass plots.

The initial phase of construction encompassed about four acres that consisted of two 14,000 square-foot putting greens, one built to USGA specifications and the other "push-up."

In addition to evaluating different bermudagrass cultivars, plans for these greens include overseeding studies, verticut/topdress frequency studies, and fertilizer source studies.

Large plots of centipedegrass, carpetgrass, Pensacola and Argentine bahiagrass, Tifway bermudagrass, FloraTeX™ bermudagrass, and St. Augustinegrass have also been planted.

The second phase of construction which was completed this past fall also encompasses four acres. However, plot sizes are much larger and the area is designated for turfgrass weed science and pathology work.

In addition to the field plots, a 2,800 square-foot maintenance facility has been constructed which houses equipment storage, office space, and a laboratory teaching area.

Much of the nine acres already developed has research projects in place.

Cooperative efforts have been made with UF turfgrass breeders Drs. Al Dudek, Russell Nagata, and Brian Scully.

They are currently evaluating nearly 200 germplasm accessions of bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass at this northwest Florida location.

In addition to the collaboration of faculty in Florida's university system, we have forged relationships with the University of Georgia, Texas A&M, and Auburn University.

Presently, we are evaluating new releases from Georgia for Drs. Wayne Hanna and Ronnie Duncan. These include TifBlair centipedegrass and TifEagle (TW- 72) and Tift94 bermudagrasses and the Seashore Paspalums.

We are also evaluating four new zoysiagrasses from Dr. Milt Engelke's breeding program at Texas A&M for their efficacy in Florida. Two National Turfgrass Evaluation Program cultivar trials — buffalograss and zoysiagrass — are also being conducted.

Built on Relationships

Amazingly, the growth and success of the Milton program have exceeded even the greatest hopes and expectations. In retrospect, the success of the Milton program can largely be attributed to great relationships forged with the Gulf Coast Chapter, GCSA, as well as many individual superintendents and industry representatives.

I vividly remember when shortly after arriving in Florida, I was in my new office unpacking boxes upon boxes of books and files when my secretary indicated that a Jeff Ball of Panama Country Club, Lynn Haven, was on the telephone.

After introductions, Jeff proceeded to lay out his vision for the turfgrass industry in Florida and he made the statement, "Blow your horn because the cavalry (Gulf Coast turfgrass industry) is on its way."

Jeff has been instrumental in helping build this program, earning him the esteemed title, "wheel greaser."

Jeff's leadership and vision made him a natural choice to represent the University of Florida at the National Leadership Seminar in Washington, D.C. hosted by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. At this conference, Jeff participated in the development of strategies for future land use

stewardship opportunities. Two other superintendents, Ron Wright, CGCS and Mark Richard, CGCS have both been active in helping to build a top-notch program.

In a similar situation, several weeks after my coming to Florida, the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Chapter, GCSA invited me to their meeting and asked how we could become partners in promoting the turfgrass industry.

The superintendents' organization has

been an invaluable avenue by which I have met many people. Furthermore, this contact has provided me the opportunity to see and hear first hand the research needs and desires of turfgrass managers working on the Gulf Coast.

In reciprocation, my office lends secretarial support and acts as an information clearinghouse. Centralizing the communication efforts has done great things in strengthening this multi-state superintendents' organization.



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Through these efforts the superintendents have completed the GCSAA affiliation process which further qualifies them, in cooperation with UF, to seek funding opportunities from the GCSAA Foundation.

Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo and Field Day

Another cooperative effort between UF and the Gulf Coast superintendents is the Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo and Field Day. The superintendents started this event a year before my arrival.

In its maiden year, the event was primarily a "sit-down" educational event that featured two university turfgrass specialists. In its second year, we expanded the focus of the event to include a tour of the turfgrass research plots at the new UF Turfgrass Field Laboratory at the WFREC.

Attendance was near 70 and people were able to hear Dr. Patricia Cobb, extension entomologist from Auburn University and Dr. Wayne Hanna, turfgrass breeder with the USDA.

After the educational session, attendees were able to see the site on which we were constructing the field laboratory. At that time, the buildings were not built yet and only a few turf plots had been established.

We also invited vendors to participate and several displayed their products and services.

Last year, the event was highly successful with more than 225 people attending. Again, the focus was changed and today, the Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day is a research plot tour at which attendees hear six or seven researchers discuss current field projects and learn how to apply these findings to their day-to-day maintenance regimes.

Industry Support is Vital

Good relationships have also been forged with Jerry Pate Turf Supply, The Toro Company, Stovall Turf and Industrial, Rain Bird Golf Irrigation, Cushman, Tieco Gulf Coast, and Jacobsen.

Chris Kurpuis, Jerry Pate Turf Supply, has led the way in providing literally thousands of dollars worth of Toro equipment as well as working with Toro repre-

sentatives in procuring irrigation equipment for the initial four-acre development.

Similarly, Marty Morris of Stovall Turf and Industrial worked with Leslie Seward of Rain Bird Golf Irrigation to get the irrigation system donated for the second phase of development. Marty also called in a favor from Eric Merkt, ProRain Irrigation Company, to help install the system.

Numerous other vendors have also been extremely gracious in providing the equipment, materials, and supplies needed to maintain this turfgrass field laboratory. There is no doubt that this project would not be where it is today without the tireless efforts of these many people.

Building a Statewide Turfgrass Program

One of the greatest needs in a state as large and diverse as Florida, is a concerted statewide turfgrass teaching, research, and extension program. I believe that one of our greatest assets is a statewide turf program with four turfgrass research facilities spread across the state.

Admittedly, collaboration among locations has been lacking in the past. However, we are seeing great strides being made in forging new partnerships among our faculty at UF.

Our turfgrass breeders in Belle Glade, Drs. Russell Nagata and Brian Scully are great examples of researchers who have taken their program statewide. To better evaluate their new grasses, Russell and Brian have placed their plant materials at several locations throughout the state.

This statewide testing allows them to obtain information concerning differential biotic and abiotic stresses that are found across a state as large as Florida.

Our turfgrass teaching program is another area in which faculty members are collaborating. Unknown to many, Dr. Grady Miller (Gainesville) has very successfully led the turfgrass teaching faculty to develop and implement a Turfgrass Interdisciplinary Science degree program.

Essentially, students entering the turfgrass academic program will now gradu-

ate with a degree in Turfgrass Science, not an Environmental Horticulture degree with a turfgrass option.

This new degree program greatly enhances our ability to tailor the curriculum to meet the changing needs of the turfgrass manager. Furthermore, this mechanism will allow us to better market the degree program to potential students.

Another example of statewide collaboration can be seen in the new extension design team, FL-116, Turfgrasses in Florida.

This team, comprising UF turfgrass specialists and county Extension faculty, has developed specific objectives concerning coordination of the UF turfgrass Extension, Research, and Teaching program to provide the right information to the right people.

The goals that have been set are enthusiastic, yet they represent the broad base of information needed by all segments of the Florida turfgrass industry. Great effort was taken to assure that all aspects of turfgrass management were taken into consideration.

If you are curious, the design team goals and objectives can be seen on the world wide web (<http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~smpweb/fl116.htm>).

A Challenging Future

These are but a few examples of the many positive steps being taken at UF to build a strong statewide turfgrass program. UF has experienced tremendous success and support at each of the four locations.

However, it is time that we press on and continue moving forward to broaden our collaborative efforts further, both among faculty members and with the supporting industry. As they say, "United we stand, divided we fall!"

In time, many more challenging, yet exciting things will happen.

Let us (UF Faculty and Industry, alike!) not allow the things we *cannot* do, keep us from doing the things we *can* do. It takes a while to get the train moving, but once it is, it is even harder to stop!

Florida has the potential to have the greatest turfgrass Extension, Research, and Teaching program in the world. Bar none! Let's build it!